IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11, as follows:

The connection manager 28 acts as an abstraction layer which abstracts the characteristics of a variety of different connections 12 and interfaces 16 and offloads the handling of these details from clients 18. In addition, in some embodiments, the connection manager 28 may manage the establishment of a connection 12 ~~28~~ that is non-persistent such as a dial up connection established on demand over a telephone line.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 19, as follows:

Referring to Figure 2, in one embodiment, the connection manager 28 may have a busy state 26 ~~24~~ and an idle state 24 ~~26~~ and may transition between these two states. The connection manager 28 is in the busy state when clients 18 have registered with the connection manager 28 in order to access the connection 12. In the busy state, the connection 12 is either established and protected or the connection manager 28 is attempting to establish the connection 12. In the idle state 26, no clients 18 have (or remain) registered with the connection manager 28 and the connection 12 is automatically disconnected (if connected and the connection 12 is owned by the connection manager 28 and the connection 12 is not persistent).

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